

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 therein. Applicants have also amended claims 3 and 4 in order to address dependency issues created by canceling claim 2. Finally applicants have amended claims 8 and 10 to address indefiniteness issues.

Claims 8 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Specifically, the examiner objects to the use of the term "substantially" indicating that it makes the claims indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 8 and 10 to remove said term. Therefore, this issue should now be moot.

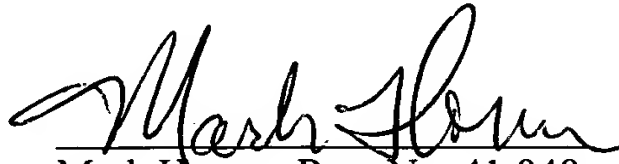
Claims 1, 4-8 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hodges (GB 2,187,267). Applicants assume that these rejections actually only apply to claims 1 and 13 since claims 4-8 and 12 ultimately depended upon claim 2, which the examiner indicated within the Detailed Action contained allowable subject matter.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 (the grain stimulant comprising a rubber material) therein. All claims depend upon claims 1 and 13, and, therefore, also include this limitation. Because the Hodges reference does not disclose the limitation of the grain stimulant comprising a rubber material, this amendment should overcome the above referenced anticipation rejection. Also, because the examiner states that claim 2 is allowable, applicants have basically rewritten claims 1 and 13 to reflect claim 2 as an independent claim, and all of the other claims within the application depend upon claims 1 and 13, these claims should also, now, be allowable.

Accordingly, applicant believes that claims 1 and 3-14 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the examiner to withdraw all objections and

rejections and allow said claims. Should the examiner need more information regarding this matter or have further suggestions regarding this application, feel free to call the undersigned at 301-744-5603.

Respectfully submitted,



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